

COUNTY OF FRANKLIN, VIRGINIA
PUBLIC COMMENT NOTICE

The Franklin County Broadband Authority intends to file grant application(s) with Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) under its 2020 Virginia Telecommunications Initiative Program (VATI). In accordance with the VATI Program Guidelines, the Franklin County Broadband Authority is requesting public comments as to its submission of grant application(s) that is due on September 3, 2019.

Franklin County consists of 712 square miles and a population of approximately 56,000 with over 20% of the area that is unserved by broadband as identified in the Center for Innovative Technology's 2017 needs assessment. The County is seeking to improve broadband coverage and access in the areas of the County that are currently considered unserved. The VATI program defines unserved as areas that have broadband speeds of 10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload or less. The County proposes to accomplish this through an approach to develop increased fixed wireless service opportunities as well as developing more fiber to the home/business using a phased implementation approach as outlined in the Franklin County Broadband Assessment and Plan prepared by Design Nine, Inc.

In order to provide a record to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, comments should be addressed to Steven Sandy, Director of Planning and Community Development. The preferred methods of comment would be by email to steve.sandy@franklincountyva.gov or by letter sent to Steven Sandy, 1255 Franklin Street, Suite 103, Rocky Mount, VA 24151. Comment will also be received by telephone (540) 483-3027, ext. 2304. These comments will be recorded. Public comment will be open from Friday, August 9, 2019 to Friday, August 30, 2019. A complete list of all of the comments will be sent to VHCD.

DHCD will post electronic copies of all submitted applications to the agency website after the deadline for application submissions has passed and before project approval. Any private sector service provider wishing to request that DHCD deem a proposed project area as ineligible for VATI must submit a challenge with the information required in this section no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 9, 2019. DHCD will have 30 business days to validate a challenge.

Please publish on August 9, 2019 and August 16, 2019.